

H-1 B and J-1 Status Comparison Chart

Visa Type	H-1B Employment	J-1 Scholar Exchange
Purpose	Temporary Worker in a Specialty Occupation i.e. Tenure track faculty, Researcher, Programmer Analyst	Exchange Visitor-Research or Professor i.e. Non-tenure track positions
Funding	Must come from U.S. employer	U.S. employer; Personal funds; Home or U.S. Government funds
Wage minimum	Yes, the minimum prevailing wage must be determined by Dept of Labor	No
Degree Requirement	Position requires minimum Bachelor's degree	Requirements vary per J category
Maximum Stay	6 years	5 years 6 months-Short-Term Scholar
Can have the intent to immigrate to the U.S.	Yes	No
Advantages	Can have the intent to become a permanent resident; No 212(e); Can take the step of applying for permanent residency	DS-2019 issued by TTU; no USCIS approval needed; J-2 spouse can obtain work authorization
Disadvantage	Petition must be approved by USCIS; H-4 spouse cannot work; employer liable for return transportation home if the position is terminated by the employer	2-year home residence requirement (212 (e)) if government funded or on skills list (might be able to obtain a waiver of 212 (e)) Can not apply to become a permanent resident or apply for H-1 B without the waiver being approved.
Required fees by department	Government fee: \$460 + \$500 \$2,805 (Premium processing fee) Application processing fee: \$1000	Government fee: none Application processing fee: \$200
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